

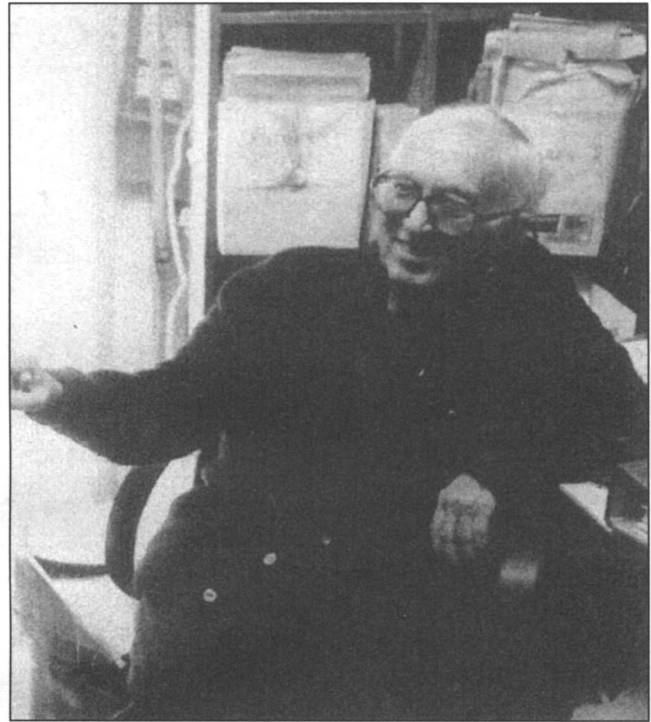
# Rodney J. Rooke (26.4.1939 - 5.11.2005)

The untimely loss of Rodney Rooke, a dear friend and close collaborator of 40 years, at the age of 66, came as a shock to all of us at the Athens Center of Ekistics and to the world network of people associated with the overall ekistics movement. Since he joined the ACE as Chief Reference Librarian in 1966, Rodney was always appreciated as a specially gifted human being and a vital pillar in the variety of efforts undertaken by the ACE.

We wish to express our thanks to his wife Katerina Anghelaki-Rooke, the very distinguished Greek poetess and a dear friend, who kindly sent us the note we reproduce hereunder – together with some photographs from the family album – when we asked her about their early life before Rodney joined the Athens Technological Organization.

*“Rodney was born in Liverpool on 26 April, 1939. He studied Classical Philology in Cambridge, England, and Librarianship and Archives at London University. In spite of the fact that he was a brilliant student, with all kinds of scholarships, he was shy, modest and reserved, never exhibiting his vast knowledge.*

*He knew a great deal about ancient Greece and often used to come to Greece in the summertime. He loved walking and had walked all over Greece. It was during one of those summers that we met in the center of Athens, in a restaurant-taverna. We were both 24 years old (he was two months younger than I). I had just graduated from Geneva University and was reading Baudelaire in the restaurant. Rodney thought I was French and we started talking in French. But we soon switched to English. Three months later from that very day – that evidently marked us both – we got married in a little white chapel at the foot of the Acropolis, with just my parents present. We then left for London where he had a job – before we met – as Librarian of the Ministry of Defence. We lived in Kensington and had a beautiful carefree life. But in less than a year’s time, my mother died and my father – left alone at the age of 83 – proposed that we move to Greece and that he would support us until Rodney found a job. Rodney promptly said “yes”; he resigned from his post at the Ministry and we settled*

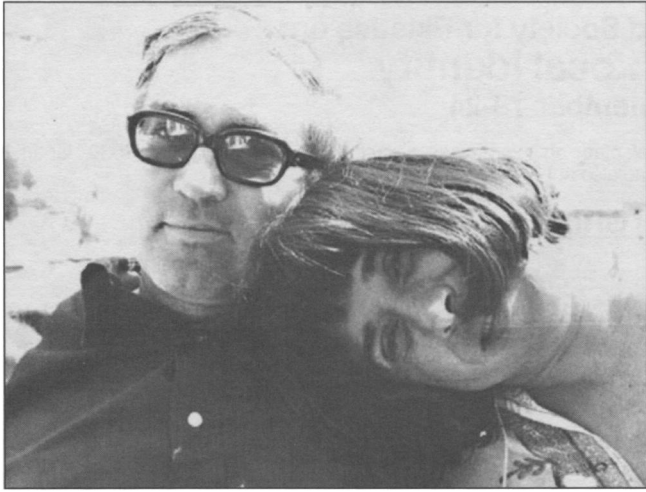


*in Athens. He quickly found a job, teaching English in an institute for foreign languages, and soon after that Doxiadis entered our lives. The rest is history that – at least partially – you know better than I do.*

*As for me, the more time passes, the more I miss him and all the more I realize that I had lived for almost 43 years with an exceptional human being.”*

The more time passes, the more we miss him



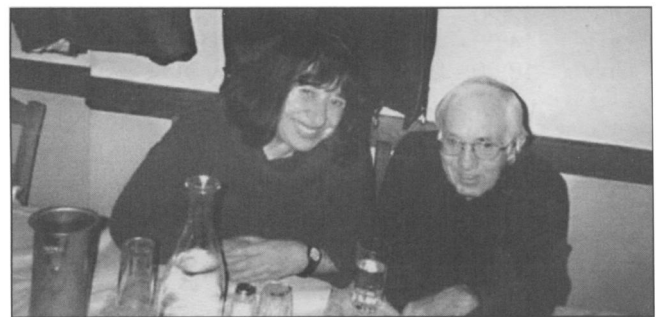


too: his wisdom, his commitment, his dedication to demanding tasks, not only in the early times of prosperity of ACE but also during the difficult years that followed since he became my right hand as Assistant Editor of *Ekistics* when I had to take over as Editor of the journal on the death of Jaqueline Tyrwhitt in 1983.

I am sure he knew how grateful I was to him for the stressful times he had to share with all of us



Relaxing in the living room of the house in Aegina, August 2002.



Dining at the Lefka Taverna, Athens, February 2001.



Launching the book *From Purple into Night* at the Lemon Tree Restaurant, Oxford, with Mary Doherty, then Green.



At a reading of Katerina's poetry with François Dimech, French painter (left) and P. Psomopoulos, Institut Français d'Athènes, October 1990.

here, often having to sacrifice tremendous opportunities for a rich cultural life offered to him by the international network of poets, writers, artists, and other important people from all over the world who frequented the Anghelaki house and the pistachio-growing area on Aegina, Katerina's "island of return." Rodney was always available for office work except at the time of year when his pistachios had to be harvested!

In spite of his deep involvement in Greek intellectual life, he remained an Englishman to the core – he never failed to listen to the BBC news or read *The Guardian* – and he never ceased to turn the plethora of broken English, to which he was constantly exposed, into the subtleties of his native tongue.

We will miss Rodney most as an individual with a great sense of humor, a quality more valuable than ever in a world that seems more unstable with every passing day. With his death, we ourselves have been deprived of the company of a unique friend, and the Liverpool football team of one of its most ardent fans!

The Editor